(c) There were about 1,60,000 IT professionals employed in 1966-97 which rose to 3,40,000 in 1999-2000, thereby registering an annual growth rate of 50%.

Targets for Development of Industries in IT

†4207. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that targets have been fixed for the development of Industries under the Information Technology in coming years in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed togetherwith the assessment with regard to the total capital investment required to achieve this target; and

(c) the total capital investment in this Industry during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set targets of US $ 30 Billion for Hardware (US $ 10 Billion for exports and US $ 20 Billion for domestic) and US $ 87 Billion (US $ 50 Billion for exports and US $ 37 Billion for domestic) for Software, for Year 2008.

Information regarding capital investment is not available.

Dissassociation of IT from Communication and Convergence Bill

4208. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has disassociated itself from the revised draft of Communication and Convergence Bill which has sought to bring all Internet, e-commerce and IT related services under the licence regime;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for disassociating IT from this decision;

(c) whether Government have opposed this move; and

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information Technology has not disassociated itself from the revised draft of Communication Convergence Bill, 2001. The Communication Convergence Bill does not seek to bring e-commerce and IT related services under the license regime.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) The Group of Ministers have taken a decision in this regard as stated above.

Entry of software professionals in UK

4209. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale software professionals are entering Britain from India after amendments to work permit rules issued last year to invite more Information Technology-trained foreigners by the' UK Government.

(b) if so, to what extent Indians have been engaged by UK; and

(c) the total Indian IT professionals at present working in UK?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) ; (a) to (c) According to a statement in the UK Parliament by the Minister of State for Employment in January 2001, out of a total of 18257 foreign IT professionals who entered the UK for work in the year 2000, 11474 were from India.

Opening of Protector of Emigrants at Calicut

4210. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to open an Office of the Protector of Emigrants at Calicut;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Kerala has agreed to provide office space and the required staff on deputation basis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in commencing the office functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) to (c) A proposal from the Government of